527 Rec'd PCT/PTO 08 DEC 2000

FORM PTO-1390 (REV 12-29-99)	U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE	ATTORNEY'S DOCKET NUMBER
TRANSMITTAL LETTER TO THE UNITED STATES DESIGNATED/ELECTED OFFICE (DO/EO/US) CONCERNING A FILING UNDER 35 U.S.C. 371		OUVBOC
		U.S. APPLICATION NO. (If known, see 37 CFR 1.5) 09/719464
INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION NO. PCT/FR99/01246	INTERNATIONAL FILING DATE 27.05.99	PRIORITY DATE CLAIMED 28-05-98
TITLE OF INVENTION UTENSIL FOR OPENING CONTAINERS WITH SCREWED LIDS		
APPLICANT(S) FOR DO/EO/US SEBILEAU Vincent		

Applicant herewith submits to the United States Designated/Elected Office (DO/EO/US) the following items and other information:

1. ☐ This is a FIRST submission of items concerning a filing under 35 U.S.C. 371.
2. ☐ This is a SECOND or SUBSEQUENT submission of items concerning a filing under 35 U.S.C. 371.
3. ☒ This express request to begin national examination procedures (35 U.S.C. 371(f)) at any time rather than delay examination until the expiration of the applicable time limit set in 35 U.S.C. 371(b) and PCT Articles 22 and 39(1).
4. ☒ A proper Demand for International Preliminary Examination was made by the 19th month from the earliest claimed priority date.
5. ☒ A copy of the International Application as filed (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(2))
   a. ☐ is transmitted herewith (required only if not transmitted by the International Bureau).
   b. ☒ has been transmitted by the International Bureau.
   c. ☐ is not required, as the application was filed in the United States Receiving Office (RO/US).
6. ☒ A translation of the International Application into English (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(2)).
7. ☒ Amendments to the claims of the International Application under PCT Article 19 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(3))
   a. ☐ are transmitted herewith (required only if not transmitted by the International Bureau).
   b. ☒ have been transmitted by the International Bureau.
   c. ☐ have not been made; however, the time limit for making such amendments has NOT expired.
   d. ☐ have not been made and will not be made.
8. ☒ A translation of the amendments to the claims under PCT Article 19 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(3)).
9. ☒ An oath or declaration of the inventor(s) (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(4)).
10. ☒ A translation of the annexes to the International Preliminary Examination Report under PCT Article 36 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(5)).

Items 11. to 16. below concern document(s) or information included:

11. ☐ An Information Disclosure Statement under 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98.
12. ☐ An assignment document for recording. A separate cover sheet in compliance with 37 CFR 3.28 and 3.31 is included.
13. ☐ A FIRST preliminary amendment.
    ☐ A SECOND or SUBSEQUENT preliminary amendment.
14. ☐ A substitute specification.
15. ☐ A change of power of attorney and/or address letter.
16. ☒ Other items or information: VERIFICATION OF A TRANSLATION

US APPLICATION NO. (if known, see 37 CFR 1.5)	INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION NO	ATTORNEY'S DOCKET NUMBER
09/719464	PCT/FR99/01246	OUVBOC

	CALCULATIONS PTO USE ONLY	
17. ☐ The following fees are submitted:		
BASIC NATIONAL FEE (37 CFR 1.492 (a) (1) - (5)):		
Neither international preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) nor international search fee (37 CFR 1.445(a)(2)) paid to USPTO and International Search Report not prepared by the EPO or JPO $970.00		
International preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) not paid to USPTO but International Search Report prepared by the EPO or JPO $840.00		
International preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) not paid to USPTO but international search fee (37 CFR 1.445(a)(2)) paid to USPTO $690.00		
International preliminary examination fee paid to USPTO (37 CFR 1.482) but all claims did not satisfy provisions of PCT Article 33(1)-(4) $670.00		
International preliminary examination fee paid to USPTO (37 CFR 1.482) and all claims satisfied provisions of PCT Article 33(1)-(4) $96.00		
ENTER APPROPRIATE BASIC FEE AMOUNT =	$ 840	
Surcharge of **$130.00** for furnishing the oath or declaration later than ☐ 20 ☐ 30 months from the earliest claimed priority date (37 CFR 1.492(e)).	$	

CLAIMS	NUMBER FILED	NUMBER EXTRA	RATE		
Total claims	- 20 =		X $18.00	$	
Independent claims	- 3 =		X $78.00	$	
MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIM(S) (if applicable)			+ $260.00	$	
TOTAL OF ABOVE CALCULATIONS =				$ 840	
Reduction of 1/2 for filing by small entity, if applicable. A Small Entity Statement must also by filed (Note 37 CFR 1.9, 1.27, 1.28).				$ 420	
SUBTOTAL =				$ 420	
Processing fee of **$130.00** for furnishing the English translation later than ☐ 20 ☐ 30 months from the earliest claimed priority date (37 CFR 1.492(f)). +				$	
TOTAL NATIONAL FEE =				$ 0	
Fee for recording the enclosed assignment (37 CFR 1.21(h)). The assignment must be accompanied by an appropriate cover sheet (37 CFR 3.28, 3.31). **$40.00** per property +				$	
TOTAL FEES ENCLOSED =				$ 420	
				Amount to be: refunded	$
				charged	$

a. ☒ ~~A check~~ in the amount of $ 420 to cover the above fees is enclosed.
TRAVELERS CHEQUES

b. ☐ Please charge my Deposit Account No. _____ in the amount of $_____ to cover the above fees. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

c. ☐ The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. _____ A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

NOTE: Where an appropriate time limit under 37 CFR 1.494 or 1.495 has not been met, a petition to revive (37 CFR 1.137(a) or (b)) must be filed and granted to restore the application to pending status.

SEND ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO:

Vincent SEBILEAU
4 avenue de Triel
78510 VERNOUILLET
FRANCE

SIGNATURE

NAME SEBILEAU Vincent

REGISTRATION NUMBER

VERIFICATION OF A TRANSLATION
(VÉRIFICATION D'UNE TRADUCTION)

I, the below named translator, hereby declare that:

My name and post office address are as stated below;

That I am knowledgeable in the English language and in the language in which the below identified international application was filed, and that I believe the English translation of the international application No. _____ is a true and complete translation of the above identified international application as filed.

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such wilful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

Date
16 NOV. 2000

Full name of the translator (Nom et prénom du traducteur) Thomas NUZUM
(dactylographiés ou imprimés)

Signature of the translator (Signature du traducteur) Thomas Nuzum

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78300 POISSY, FRANCE

A UTENSIL FOR REMOVING TWIST-OFF LIDS OF CONTAINERS

The existing utensils for unscrewing lids of jars or other containers oblige the user to operate the utensil with one hand while gripping the container firmly with the other hand to keep it from turning, an effort that fails sometimes when the lid is screwed on very tightly, or "glued" by the product in the container.

Those utensils only provide a stronger grip on the lid, and greater leverage on the lid.

A possible alternative is to use two utensils simultaneously, one that clamps the lid and one that clamps the container, which requires fussy operation and endangers the contents at the instant when the lid and container abruptly come unstuck.

The present invention is an utensil to unblock covers screwed onto containers, and is especially suitable for unscrewing twist-off lids of glass jars for food preserves.
This simple and inexpensive utensil has the major advantage of requiring only a single motion with the operating handle in order to unscrew the lid without exerting great effort.
Then adequate springs pull the operating handle and connecting arm back to their starting points, against stops, which assures easy operation by any normally built person, even if he or she ignores the customary direction for twisting off a container's cover.

A ratchet device could be added to the operating handle to facilitate its use, and be geared down and/or disengagable if so desired.

This utensil for opening containers with screw-on lids is essentially a system for clamping the lid by having it wedge itself while being rotated by a belt tightened around the container below its lid.

This utensil consists of :

a lid-clamping plate held on top of the twist-off lid by one hand, said plate having on its under side two walls, preferably at right angles to the plate, mounted to face each other, but not parallel, in such a way that the lid's edge comes up against the walls, one of which has enough friction to make the container's lid roll along the wall without slipping, so that the container rotates in the unscrewing direction while the lid's far edge slides along the other wall until it wedges itself between the walls,

and a flexible ribbon of a supple, adherent material that can only be stretched slightly, such as a belt of reinforced rubber, loop-shaped to encircle the container, preferably at a height slightly under the lid when the container is placed beneath the lid-wedging plate, said loop being closed where it is mounted on a winding drum so that the belt's excess length is wound up around the drum as it is pivoted by a handle attached rigidly to the drum and moved by the other hand while the drum turns on an axle that is preferably at a right angle to the plate at the free end of a connecting arm which also pivots on an axle that is on the lid-clamping plate, parallel to the drum's axle, and is best located close to the perpendicular wall that makes the container turn.

Additional elements in particular embodiments of the present invention :

- at least one of the lid-blocking walls can be set at various distances from the other wall to fit different diameters of lids to be twisted off.

part of the lid-clamping plate can have a channeling between the walls to let the winding drum travel closer to rotate small-diameter containers.

the distance between the axle of the connecting arm on the lid-wedging plate and the drum's axle can be variable, for example by letting at least one of the axles travel along an oblong slot.

at least one of the walls under the lid-clamping plate can have a flat or incurved surface.

the lid-clamping plate can have an extension opposite the working zone of the connecting arm to serve as a handle to hold the plate.

a magnet can be placed under the lid-clamping plate between the two walls to help hold metal lids against that plate after the container is opened.

In a very special embodiment of this invention, requiring only a slight rotation of the winding drum to turn the container, the handle of the drum to wind up the belt could be rigidly attached to the drum or to the part of the axle above the drum under the connecting arm, opposite the belt loop.

Here is a more detailed description of embodiments of this invention to explain more clearly its essential characteristics and advantages, but of course these versions have been chosen as examples and the invention is not at all limited to these embodiments.

These descriptions are illustrated by the appended drawings, in which :

In figures 1 and 2, the diagrams marked "A" are bottom views of the device and the "B" diagrams are side views in two phases of the invention's use.

Figures 1-A and 1-B show :
a lid-wedging plate (1) that is approximately square, the two walls to block the lid being at right angles with the plate, facing each other, but not parallel, namely the wall along which the lid slides (4) and the wall that makes the lid (2) turn, that wall being faced with a frictional surface (3), a belt (5) in the shape of a closed loop fastened on the winding drum (6) which has a handle to turn it (7), pivoting on an axle (25) on the connecting arm (8) which also pivots on an axle (9) on the lid-wedging plate (1).

All of these parts can be made of plastic or metal, while suitable friction along the lid-rolling wall (2) and the belt (5) is obtained by a sufficiently rough surface and/or by an adherent material such as rubber.

The belt (5) is mounted on the winding drum (6) along its radius or tangent to its circumference by attaching the belt ends side by side to form a closed loop, or by fastening a circular belt tangently on the circumferance of the drum (6) or by inserting part of the belt in the drum (6), the attachment being achieved by mechanical means such as a staple or blocking screw, or by inserting the belt (5) when the winding drum (6) is about to be molded, or by simultaneously molding the belt (5) and drum (6).

In figure 1-B the user's left hand (10) holds the plate (1) and is about to place the belt (5) around the container (11) under the lid (12), after the container has been placed on a table (13).

Figures 2-A and 2-B show the moment of lid unscrewing after the user has placed the lid (12) of the container (11) between the walls (2, 4) that will block the lid, as the user's left hand (10) keeps the wedging plate (1) on the lid (12) and the right hand (14) turns the operating handle (7) to roll up the belt (5) around the winding drum (6) so that the belt tightens around the container (11) and squeezes it (figure 2-A), making the container (11) rotate along a course imposed by the connecting arm (8).

The lid (12) rolls along the wall (2) and slides along the other wall (4) until it is wedged, the torque turning the container increases until it overcomes the resistance of the tightly-twisted lid (12) and container (11), which twists off the lid (12).

Figure 2-B shows part of a container of the traditional jam-jar type with a contracted necking (15) under the screw threads (14) holding the "twist-off" cover (12), the neck being handy to hold the belt (5) in the right position. This more realistic container diagram was not used in the bottom views of figures 1-A and 2-A, in order to simplify and clarify those diagrams.

The modification shown by this figure is that the drum (6) has the advantage of a beveled top and/or bottom edge (16) or some other suitable shape to keep the drum (6) from rubbing on the container (11) above or below its neck before the belt (5) can exert enough pressure on the container (11).

Figure 3 is a bottom view of an advanced version of this invention before assembly of extra features to enable a single implement to twist off small lids as well as big covers.

An operational prototype of this version had been manufactured out of plastic, and its blueprint is included in the envelope Soleau No. 14171.

The plate (1) has a lid-sliding wall (4) that pivots on an axle (17) and which has a stop adjustable in two positions that consists of a cylinder (18) that slides in an oblong slot (19) in that wall, the sliding cylinder (18) reaching two possible positions in the lid-wedging plate (1), in two stop slots (20) with a connecting channel (21) giving access from one slot to the other when the axle (18) is set by hand, sliding it to one stop slot (20) or the other to change the distance between the walls (2, 4). This system can be improved by any sort of bolt to hold the axle in a slot. Other simple arrangements to set the distance between the walls can be applied to this invention such as travelling or rotating one or both walls with a lever or levers or eccentric shape or other methods.

The plate (1) has two holes (22) for "mecanindus" pins to fasten a lid-rolling wall (2) with a flat face, convex face (23) or concave face (24), possibly with a facing (3) to provide suitable friction.

The plate (1) has an axle (9) for the connecting arm (8) mounted in an oblong slot (26) in the connecting arm (8) to let it travel, and the connecting arm (8) has a round hole (27) to serve as a bearing for the axle of the winding drum (6) pivoted by its handle (7), and the belt (5) is fastened on the winding drum (6).

The plate (1) includes a convenient handle (33) consisting of an adequate extension of the plate (1) at its opposite end from the "working area" of the connecting arm (8), that area being the surface covered by that arm (8) when it pivots.

Figure 4 is a bottom view of the same improved implement set to untwist a wide-diameter cover, the lid-sliding wall (4) being in the position of maximum separation from the other wall (2), and the lid-sliding wall (4) having a flat face, or a convex (23) or concave (24) face, while the winding drum (6) is stopped by the end of a sufficient extension (28) of the plate (1) in waiting position for the lid to be placed inside the belt.
That same waiting position could have been obtained by a simple blockage of the connecting arm (8) against an element joined to the plate (1) and protruding from the plate to form a stop.

Figure 5 shows the implement of figure 4 at the moment the wide lid (12) twists loose, when the winding drum (6) has compressed the belt (5) on the container after the connecting arm (8) has pivoted and traveled a short distance on its axle (9), reducing the distance beween that axle (9) and the drum (6) as the drum (6) moves into a bay (29) cut out of the plate (1) to let the drum advance between the walls (2, 4).

Figure 6 depicts the same implement shown in figure 5 at the moment a small lid twists loose, with the lid-sliding wall (4) set at the minimum distance from the other wall (2), the connecting arm (8) has traveled farther on its axle, and the drum (6) has wound up a greater length of belt (5), and advanced deeper into the opening (29) cut out of the plate (1).

Figure 7 is a perspective drawing of a version of this invention with a lid-gripping plate (1) of stamped sheet steel comprising :

-a frictional wall (2) shaped by perpendicular folding and stamped on the back to make the face rough (not shown),

-a convenient handle (33) rolled to stiffen it and make it easy to grasp,

-an axle (17) of a lid-sliding wall (4) consisting of the face of a square-sided tube sliding in an oblong hole (not shown) at the level of the axle (17) and with a rivet (51) fastened rigidly on the square tube to slide in the cut-out channel (21) between the stop slots (20) as shown in figure 4. All of the square tube assemblage slides in order to pivot, and is held at the chosen setting by a compression spring (not shown) inside the square tube beween the rivet (51) and axle (17).

-an axle (9) of the connecting arm (8) that slides in an oblong hole (26), the arm's starting position being obtained by a traction sping (35) that pulls the connecting arm (8) against a protuberance (34) of the plate (1) that serves as a stop, with the coil at one end of the spring fastened in a hole (36) in the plate (1) and the other end coil fastened in a hole (37) in the connecting arm (8);

The axles (17, 9) can obtained by adding mechanical elements such as gudgeons or rivets, etc. or advantageously by punch stamping the sheet steel of the plate (1).

The connecting arm (8), obtained by stamp pressing an approximately rectangular sheet of steel with adequate punchings (19,27,39), includes a thrust block (39) that halts the operating handle (7) when it returns to starting position, by blocking a protuberance on the handle (7), axle (25) or drum (6) of the unit that turns, (a counter stop rigidly attached to the axle (25) of the drum (6) in the version shown here).

The winding drum (6) is yoked by a winding guide (40) for the belt (5) consisting of a rectangle of sheet metal folded

in the shape of a U lying on its side, with the upper arm (41) and the lower arm (42) barely touching the upper side (43) of the drum (6) and its lower side (44) respectively, and the winding guide (40), which can serve as a bearing for the axle (25), is attached under the free end (45) of the connecting arm (8) which has been folded into a suitable shape to support the winding guide (40).
The attachment of the guide (40) at the arm's free end (45) can be achieved by any method, even if it allows some play between those two parts.

A preferred method not depicted here is for the guide (40) and the connecting arm (8) to be made from a single piece of stamped sheet metal with the necessary cut-outs and folds.

Figure 8 is a top view of a version of this invention with a connecting arm (8) divided into two segments (47,48) articulated by an elbow joint on an axle (49) parallel to the axle (25) of the drum (6). A protuberance on at least one of the two articulated segments acts as a thrust block to maintain the elbow's angle. The segments (47,48) can advantageously consist of approximately rectangular pieces of stamped sheet metal with holes punched out for the axles (9,49,25), and with a thrust block (50) consisting of a fold. A traction spring (35) between the arm (48) supporting the drum (6) and the plate (1) makes sure that this particular connecting arm (8) will return to starting position, and has the advantage of varying the distance between axles (9,25) without resorting to an oblong hole.

Figure 9 consists of top-view diagrams of several possible ways of fastening the belt (5) on the drum (6) and of shaping the drum (6) and locating the axle (25) in the drum (6).

Figure 9A shows three possible ways to attach a closed belt or an open belt with it ends brought together : tangently to the drum, radially through the drum's center or an intermediate placement.

Figure 9B shows three possible insertions of an open belt with its ends side by side: radially, tangently or intermediate.

Figure 9C shows two possible ways to insert an open belt (5) with it ends separated : in opposite directions on opposite sides of the drum (6) or in the same direction on opposite sides.
Not shown are numerous possibilities for fastening the two separate ends when they are not at opposite ends of the belt's diameter.

Figure 9D depicts five possible shapes of drum (6) :
- cylindrical with an off-center axle to work cam style,
- an oval cam shape,
- oval with a centered axle to form two cams,
- triangular with rounded corners and central axle to form three cams,
-square with rounded corners and central axle forming four cams.

Other possible polygons forming several cams are not shown.

Of course this invention is in no way limited to the particularities that have been specified above, or to the details of the particular embodiments chosen to illustrate this invention's principles. All sorts of variations can be made of the particular versions that have been described as examples, or variations of their parts without departing from the invention's framework of principles. That framework encompasses all methods that amount to being equivalent techniques to those described above or that are combinations of them.

The american patent N°. 5,313,857 describes an apparatus placed on a table to open containers, consisting of a system for gripping the lid and a system for gripping the container that are independent of each other.

The user tightens a belt around the container to keep it from turning, and clamps the lid with a complex system of sliding jaws controlled by a cable.

The user manually selects one of the directions of rotation possible between the two clamping devices, by pulling on the handles if he wants to unscrew or by pushing if he wants to screw the lid on.

The action of gripping the container or the lid has no influence on the action of unscrewing (or screwing on).

This very complicated apparatus functions with three distinct operating actions, whereas the apparatus of patent PCT FR 99/01246 works with a single action of rotation between two handles.

Therefore the U.S. patent N° 5,313,857 is far different.

ART 34 AMDT

CLAIMS

1) An apparatus for opening containers (11) with screw-off lids (12), characterized by consisting essentially of a device to clamp the lid (12) by self-clamping by rotation between two walls (2, 4) mounted to face each other, but not parallel, so that the lid (12) is blocked at its periphery, the adherent surface of wall (2) obliging the edge (31) of the lid (12) of the container (11) to roll without sliding in the unscrewing direction, the lid (12) sliding along the other wall (4) until the lid (12) is wedged between the walls, said self-clamping arrangement including the rotation device causing the self-wedging by a belt (5)-drive tightened around the container (11) below the lid (12), preferably at the level of the necking (15) under the screw threads (14).

2) An apparatus in conformity with claim 1 characterized by its consisting of :
a lid-wedging plate (1) held by one hand on the lid (12) to be unscrewed, having on the plate's under surface (30) two walls (2,4), preferably at right angles to the plate (1), and by a flexible ribbon made of supple but adherent material hard to stretch such as a belt (5) of reinforced rubber in the shape of a loop to encircle the container (11), said loop, closed where it is mounted on a winding drum (6), winds around the drum when the drum is pivoted by its firmly-attached handle (7) moved by the other hand, said drum pivoting on an axle (25) that is prefereably at a right angle to the plate, at the free end (45) of a connecting arm (8) which also pivots on an axle (9) parallel to the axle (25) of the drum (6), on the lid-wedging plate (1), preferably close to the perpendicular surface of the adherent wall (2).

3) A device according to the preceding claim characterized by having at least one of the lid-blocking walls (2,4) adjustable to vary the spread between the walls to fit various diameters of twist-off lids (12).

4) A device according to [any of the preceding claims] claim 2 further characterized by a channelling (29) in the lid-wedging plate (1) between the walls (2,4) to allow the belt-winding drum (6) to move closer to small-diameter containers (11) in order to rotate them.

5) A device according to [any of the preceding claims] claim 2 further characterized by an oblong slot (19) in the connecting arm (8) at the level of at least one of the two axles (9, 25) to vary the distance between the axle (9) of the connecting arm (8) on the lid-wedging plate (1) and the axle (25) of the drum (6).

6) A device according to [claims 1 to 4] claim 2 further characterized by a connecting arm (8) that is divided into at least two segments (47, 48) jointed to form an elbow in the plane of the lid-wedging plate (1).

7) A device according to [any of the preceding claims] claim 2 further characterized by a lid-wedging plate (1) with an extension opposite the working zone of the connecting arm (8) to make a handle (33) to hold the device.

8) A device according to [any of the preceding claims] claim 2 further characterized by a belt-winding guide (40) on the drum (6) shaped like a U lying on its side with the upper side (41) and lower side (42) barely touching the upper surface (43) and lower surface (44) of the drum (6), said belt-winding drive being mounted preferably under the free end (45) of the connecting arm (8).

9) A device according to [any of the preceding claims] claim 2 further characterized by a stop (39) to halt the operating handle (7) at its starting position, said stop being integral with the lid-wedging plate (1) or the connecting arm (8).

10) A device [like any of those described in the preceding claims] according to claim 2 characterized by a connecting arm (8) with at least one element to restore the starting position, such as a traction spring (35) with one end coil attached to the lid-wedging plate (1) and the other end coil attached to the connecting arm (8).

ABSTRACT

An apparatus for opening containers with screw-off lids, consisting essentially of a device to clamp the lid by self-clamping by rotation including the rotation device causing the self-wedging by a belt drive tightened around the container below the lid, preferably at the level of the necking under the screw threads.

FIGURE 7

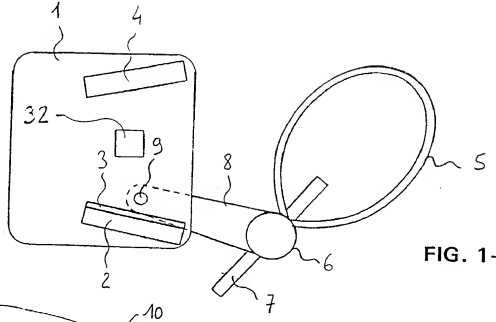

FIG. 1-A

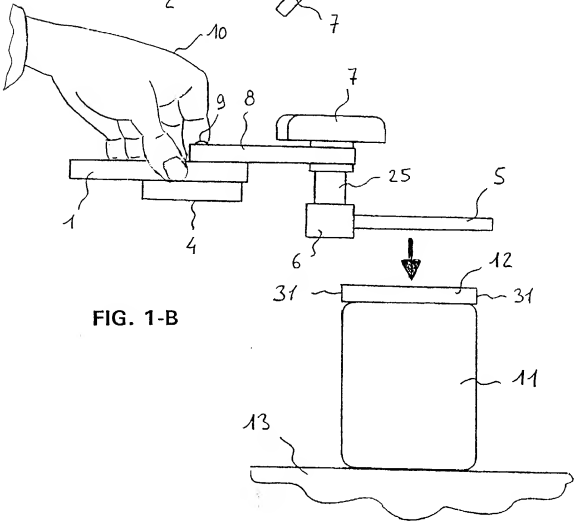

FIG. 1-B

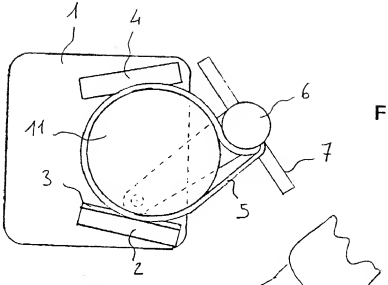
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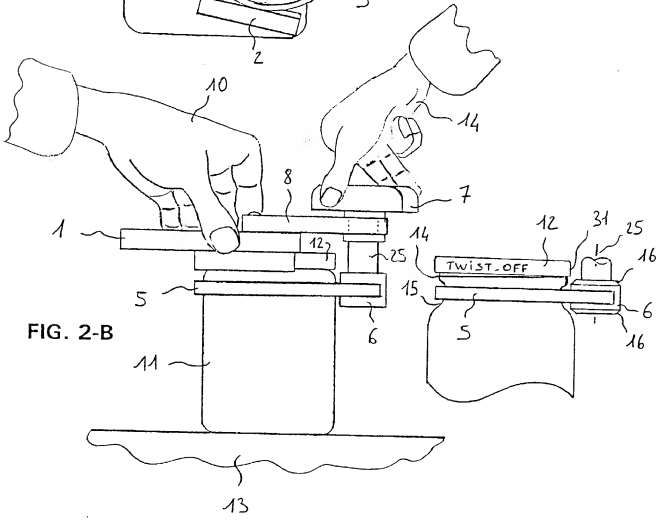
FIG. 2-A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14
8
7
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16
14
TWIST-OFF
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13

FIG. 2-B

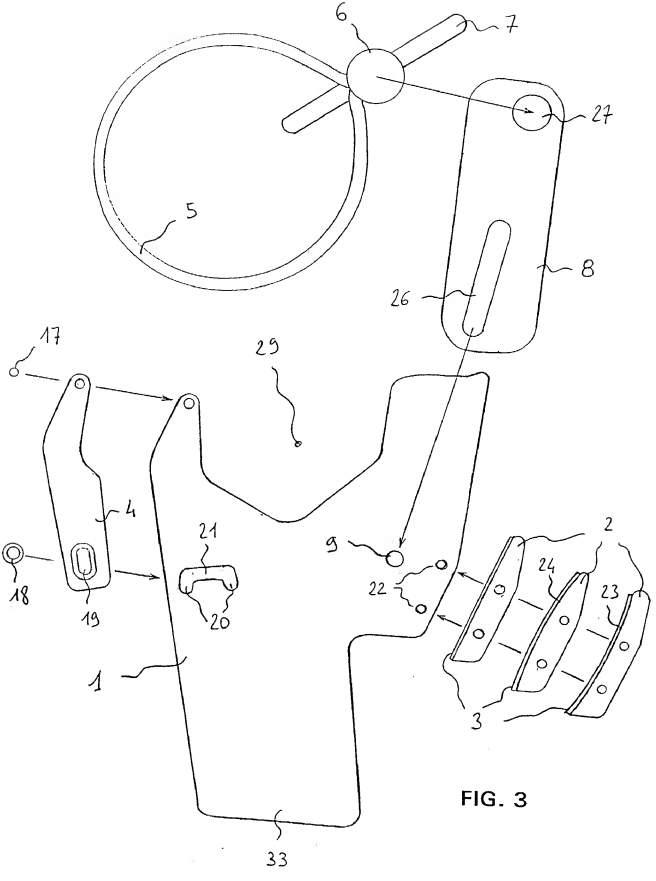

FIG. 3

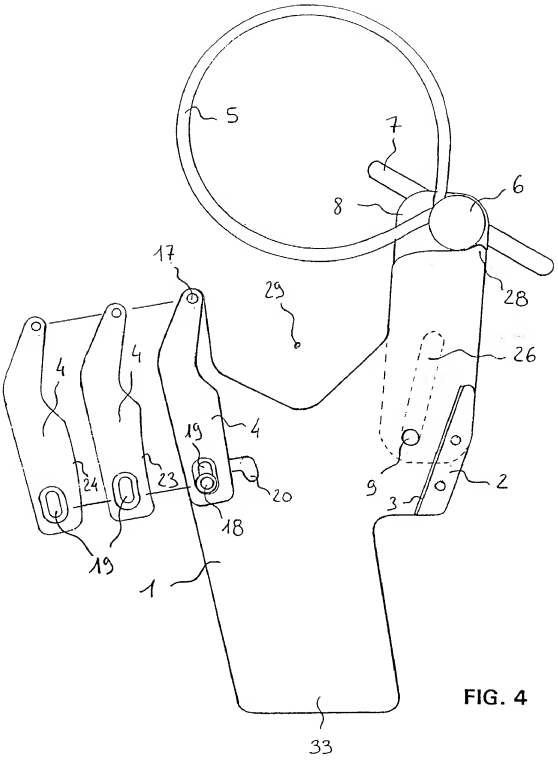

FIG. 4

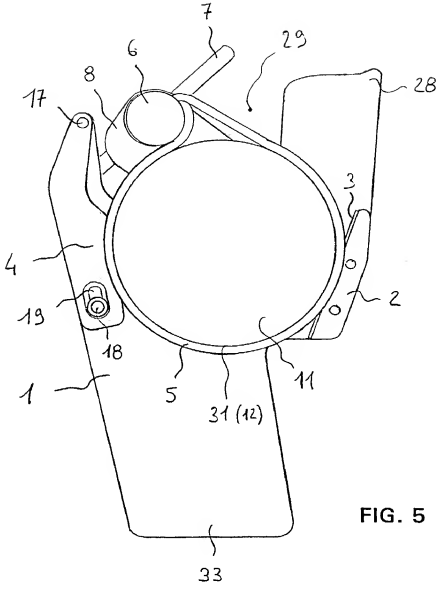

FIG. 5

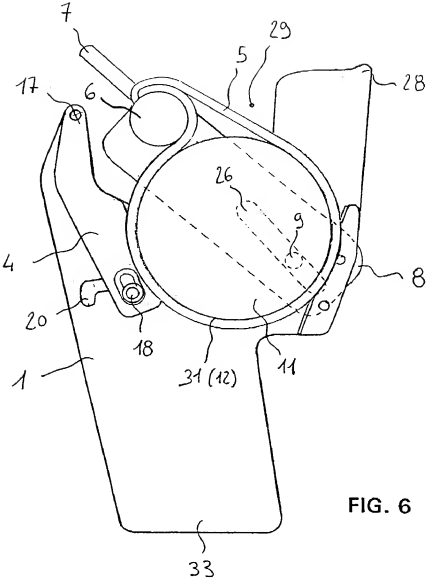

FIG. 6

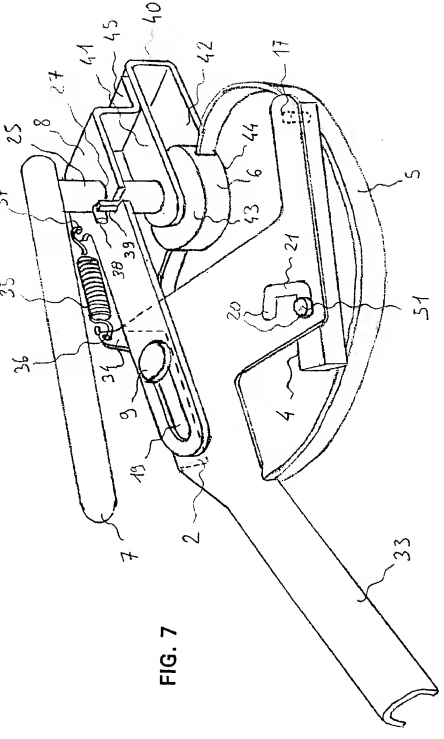
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FIG. 7

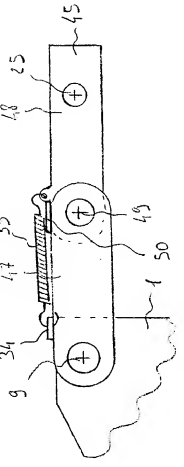
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FIG. 8

FIG. 9-A

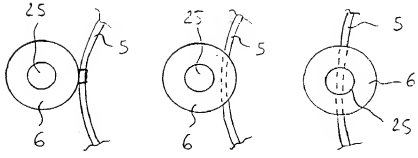


FIG. 9-B

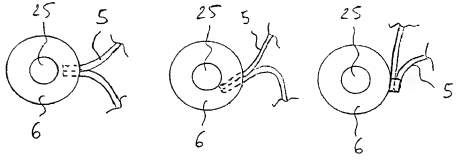
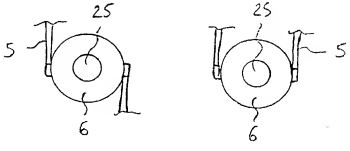


FIG. 9-C



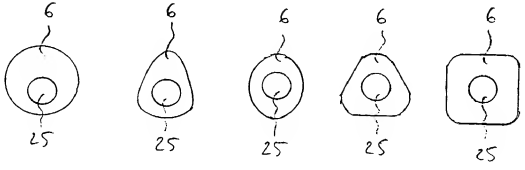


FIG.9 -D

09719464 .032103

OIPE JC139 OCT 29 2002 PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

OT19 Rec'd PCT/PTO 29 OCT 2002

PTO/SB/01 (10-01)
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U.S. Patent and Trademark Office; U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
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DECLARATION FOR UTILITY OR DESIGN PATENT APPLICATION (37 CFR 1.63)

☐ Declaration Submitted with Initial Filing **OR** ☐ Declaration Submitted after Initial Filing (surcharge (37 CFR 1.16 (e)) required)

Attorney Docket Number	OUVBOC
First Named Inventor	Sebileau Vincent
COMPLETE IF KNOWN	
Application Number	09/719,464
Filing Date	05/27/1999
Art Unit	
Examiner Name	

As the below named inventor, I hereby declare that:

My residence, mailing address, and citizenship are as stated below next to my name.

I believe I am the original and first inventor of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled:

UTENSIL FOR OPENING CONTAINERS WITH SCREWED LIDS

(Title of the Invention)

the specification of which

☐ is attached hereto

OR

☐ was filed on (MM/DD/YYYY) 05/27/1999 as United States Application Number or PCT International

Application Number FR99/01246 and was amended on (MM/DD/YYYY) _____ (if applicable).

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment specifically referred to above.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to patentability as defined in 37 CFR 1.56, including for continuation-in-part applications, material information which became available between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of the continuation-in-part application.

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d) or (f), or 365(b) of any foreign application(s) for patent, inventor's or plant breeder's rights certificate(s), or 365(a) of any PCT international application which designated at least one country other than the United States of America, listed below and have also identified below, by checking the box, any foreign application for patent, inventor's or plant breeder's rights certificate(s), or any PCT international application having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed.

Prior Foreign Application Number(s)	Country	Foreign Filing Date (MM/DD/YYYY)	Priority Not Claimed	Certified Copy Attached? YES	NO
FR98 06763	FRANCE	05/28/1998	☐	☐	☒ (*)
			☐	☐	☐
			☐	☐	☐
			☐	☐	☐

10/31/2002 MKAYPAGH 00000053 09719464
01 FC:2617 65.00 OP
02 FC:2616 135.00 OP

☐ Additional foreign application numbers are listed on a supplemental priority data sheet PTO/SB/02B attached hereto:

(*) already sent

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DECLARATION — Utility or Design Patent Application

Direct all correspondence to: ☐ Customer Number or Bar Code Label [ ] OR ☒ Correspondence address below

Name Vincent SEBILEAU

Address 4 avenue de Triel

City VERNOUILLET | State | ZIP 78540

Country FRANCE | Telephone 06.08.16.22.75 | Fax 01.30.90.06.36

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under 18 U.S.C. 1001 and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

NAME OF SOLE OR FIRST INVENTOR : ☐ A petition has been filed for this unsigned inventor

1-00

Given Name (first and middle [if any]) Vincent | Family Name or Surname SEBILEAU

Inventor's Signature Vincent Sebileau | Date 15. Oct. 02

Residence: City VERNOUILLET | State | Country FRANCE | Citizenship

Mailing Address

City VERNOUILLET | State | ZIP 78540 | Country FRANCE

NAME OF SECOND INVENTOR: ☐ A petition has been filed for this unsigned inventor

Given Name (first and middle [if any]) | Family Name or Surname

Inventor's Signature | Date

Residence: City | State | Country | Citizenship

Mailing Address

City | State | ZIP | Country

☐ Additional inventors are being named on the ____supplemental Additional Inventor(s) sheet(s) PTO/SB/02A attached hereto.

#9

DECLARATION — Utility or Design Patent Application

Direct all correspondence to: ☐ Customer Number or Bar Code Label [ ] OR ☒ Correspondence address below

Name Vincent SEBILEAU

Address 4 avenue de Triel

City VERNOUILLET | State | ZIP 78540

Country FRANCE | Telephone 06.08.16.22.75 | Fax 01.30.90.06.36

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NAME OF SOLE OR FIRST INVENTOR : ☐ A petition has been filed for this unsigned inventor

Given Name (first and middle [if any]) Vincent | Family Name or Surname SEBILEAU

Inventor's Signature Vincent Sebileau | Date 15 Oct. 02

Residence: City VERNOUILLET | State | Country FRANCE | Citizenship FRENCH

Mailing Address 4 avenue de Triel

City VERNOUILLET | State | ZIP 78540 | Country FRANCE

NAME OF SECOND INVENTOR: ☐ A petition has been filed for this unsigned inventor

Given Name (first and middle [if any]) | Family Name or Surname

Inventor's Signature | Date

Residence: City | State | Country | Citizenship

Mailing Address

City | State | ZIP | Country

☐ Additional inventors are being named on the ___ supplemental Additional Inventor(s) sheet(s) PTO/SB/02A attached hereto.

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STATEMENT CLAIMING SMALL ENTITY STATUS (37 CFR 1.9(f) & 1.27(b))–INDEPENDENT INVENTOR

Docket Number (Optional): OUVBOC

Applicant, Patentee, or Identifier: SEBILEAU Vincent

Application or Patent No.: PCT/FR99/01246

Filed or Issued: 27-05-99

Title: UTENSIL FOR OPENING CONTAINERS WITH SCREWED LIDS

As a below named inventor, I hereby state that I qualify as an independent inventor as defined in 37 CFR 1.9(c) for purposes of paying reduced fees to the Patent and Trademark Office described in:

- [X] the specification filed herewith with title as listed above.
- [ ] the application identified above.
- [ ] the patent identified above.

I have not assigned, granted, conveyed, or licensed, and am under no obligation under contract or law to assign, grant, convey, or license, any rights in the invention to any person who would not qualify as an independent inventor under 37 CFR 1.9(c) if that person had made the invention, or to any concern which would not qualify as a small business concern under 37 CFR 1.9(d) or a nonprofit organization under 37 CFR 1.9(e).

Each person, concern, or organization to which I have assigned, granted, conveyed, or licensed or am under an obligation under contract or law to assign, grant, convey, or license any rights in the invention is listed below:

- [ ] No such person, concern, or organization exists.
- [ ] Each such person, concern, or organization is listed below.

Separate statements are required from each named person, concern, or organization having rights to the invention stating their status as small entities. (37 CFR 1.27)

I acknowledge the duty to file, in this application or patent, notification of any change in status resulting in loss of entitlement to small entity status prior to paying, or at the time of paying, the earliest of the issue fee or any maintenance fee due after the date on which status as a small entity is no longer appropriate. (37 CFR 1.28(b))

NAME OF INVENTOR	NAME OF INVENTOR	NAME OF INVENTOR
SEBILEAU Vincent		
Signature of inventor	Signature of inventor	Signature of inventor
16-11-2000		
Date	Date	Date

Burden Hour Statement: This form is estimated to take 0.2 hours to complete. Time will vary depending upon the needs of the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you are required to complete this form should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, Patent and Trademark Office, Washington, DC 20231. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231.